

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07
CTME-00 COME-00 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INT-05 /087 W
-----080456 020317Z /65/16

R 311158Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 596
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R P A R A T W O

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN BAN ON EXPORT OF PRIMATES

REF: NEW DELHI 3789

SUMMARY: SCIATT MEETINGS MARCH 30 WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF BOTH MONKEY EXPORTING FIRMS REVEALED THAT THEY ARE
PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ANY CHANGE IN GOI POLICY. VITA IS
TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF ASKING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 6-9
MONTH PHASEOUT PERIOD; PATTERSON IS PREPARING A TEST
APPLICATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXPORT NOTIFICATION
DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. BOTH SAY THAT THEIR BUSINESS
SUPPLYING INDIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS HAS BEEN
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UNAFFECTED THUS FAR BUT THAT THEY DOUBT THEY CAN CARRY
ON ON THE REDUCED VOLUME OF BUSINESS REPRESENTED BY THE
INDIAN MARKET. VITA IS LOOKING FOR A NEPALESE PARTNER
WITH THE HOPE OF WORKING THERE; PATTERSON BASICALLY HAS
NOWHERE TO GO. END SUMMARY.

1. SCIATT MET MARCH 30 SEPARATELY WITH PATTERSON, DELHI

REPRESENTATIVE DHAWAN AND VIA/HAZELTON CHAIRMAN RAI. BOTH WERE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE MONKEY EXPORTS FROM INDIA.

2. PATTERSON HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM WALTER REED GIVING A JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR ORDER OF 512 MONKEYS FOR USE IN RESEARCH ON DRUG-RESISTANT MALARIA PARASITE STRAINS. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO PATTERSON'S EARLIER REQUEST TO ALL ITS CUSTOMERS FOR MATERIAL TO USE REQUESTING MONKEY EXPORTS UNDER THE FEBRUARY EXPORT NOTIFICATION (REFTEL). THE JUSTIFICATION WAS FAIRLY DETAILED, AND SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT THE RHESUS CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY MODEL WAS THE ONLY KNOWN MODEL WHICH COULD EFFECTIVELY SIMULATE THE BEHAVIOR OF THESE PARASITES IN MAN. DHAWAN WANTS TO PUT THIS FORWARD TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AS A "TEST CASE" TO SEE WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, THE EXPORT NOTIFICATION REFERRED TO IN REFTEL HAS ON GOI MONKEY EXPORT POLICY. SCIATT SUGGESTED THAT HE WAIT A BIT BEFORE PUTTING UP HIS TEST CASE, TO SEE WHETHER AN APPLICATION COMES IN FROM A NON-MILITARY END USER WHICH WOULD BE A "CLEARER" ONE TO START WITH.

3. VITA CHAIRMAN RAI BELIEVES THAT BECAUSE THE EXPORT NOTIFICATION REFERRED TO THE GOI IMPORT POLICY FOR FY 1977/78, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE LAPSED BY APRIL 1 AND THAT THERE IS THEREFORE NO POINT IN TRYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PUT UP A TEST CASE NOW. HE BELIEVES A SIMILAR NOTICE MAY EVENTUALLY BE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH GOI FY 1978/79 IMPORT POLICY, AND WHEN THIS HAPPENS HE PLANS TO TRY A TEST CASE.

4. NEITHER COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVES ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS ROUTE WILL YIELD ANY DIVIDENDS, HOWEVER, RAI HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HE FEELS ARE CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND HAS FOUND THAT ALTHOUGH SOME ARE SYMPATHETIC, NO ONE IS WILLING TO SPEAK TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT RESCINDING THE EXPORT BAN. HE FELT THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT GREATER RECEPTIVITY IF ONE WERE TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO THE PRIME MINISTER ASKING FOR TIME TO WIND UP VITA'S AND PATTERSON'S MONEKY INTERESTS IN INDIA - SAY, 6 TO 9 MONTHS. A LONGER PHASING-DOWN TIME HE FELT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. RAI ASKED WHAT OUR REACTION WOULD BE TO AN APPROACH OF THIS SORT BY THE COMPANIES. SCIATT SAID THAT HER PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ANY SOFTENING OF THE BAN, EVEN TEMPORARY, WAS TO THE GOOD. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON AGENCIES' REACTIONS TO THIS APPROACH.

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5. BOTH COMPANIES HAVE STOPPED TRAPPING. VITA HAS ABOUT 760 MONKEYS IN STOCK, PATTERSON ABOUT 400. BOTH HAD DONE THEIR TRAPPING ENTIRELY IN FOREST AREAS, ON THE BASIS OF "AUCTIONS" OF TRAPPING AREAS ISSUED BY THE UP AND OTHER STATE FOREST AUTHORITIES. THESE CONCESSIONS WERE MOVED AROUND GEOGRAPHICALLY BY THE AUTHORITIES SO AS TO PREVENT DEPLETION OF THE POPULATION IN ANY ONE AREA.

6. VITA AND PATTERSON HAVE SUPPLIED SOME 90 PERCENT OF THE 2500-3000 MONKEYS USED EVERY YEAR BY INDIAN RESEARCH AND VACCINE PRODUCTION INSTITUTIONS. PATTERSON HAD THE LARGER SHARE IN THIS MARKET (CLOSE TO 2000 PER YEAR). BUT NEITHER EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING INDIAN CUSTOMERS WITHOUT THE HIGHER-VOLUME FOREIGN BUSINESS. THE INDIAN DEMAND IS SPREAD OUT AMONG MANY

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INSTITUTIONS WHOSE REQUIREMENTS ARE SMALL AND SPECIFIC;
TO HIRE A TRAPPER TO GET A CONSIGNMENT OF, SAY, 10
JUVENILE FEMALES WOULD BE PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE UNLESS
ONE ALSO HAD A MARKET FOR WHATEVER ELSE THE TRAPPER
MIGHT BRING IN. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL IMPRESSIONS ARE
THAT THE LOCAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT HAS NOT FOCUSED ON
WHAT MAY BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THEM AFTER THE
NEXT SIX MONTHS.

7. VITA HAS INTERESTS BEYOND ITS INDIAN OPERATION.
SOME YEARS AGO, RAI HAD A NEPALESE PARTNER WHO OBTAINED
A MONKEY EXPORT LICENSE FOR NEPAL. FOR ABOUT A YEAR,
HE SAID, HIS COMPANY EXPORTED NEPALESE MONKEYS, BUT HIS
PARTNER WAS "NOT RELIABLE" AND THE LICENSE LAPSED. RAI
IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF STARTING UP IN NEPAL
AGAIN, AND SAID HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER NEPALESE
PARTNER. HE SAID HIS TRAPPERS CLAIMED THERE WERE MORE
RHESUS MONKEYS IN NEPAL THAN IN THE AREAS THEY COVERED
IN INDIA, BUT HE HAD NO MORE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATE OF THE
MONKEY POPULATION THERE. PATTERSON HAS NO SUCH OUTSIDE
INTERESTS, HOWEVER.

8. RAI (VITA) ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF POPULATION
OF THE NBC NEWS FEATURE ON THE MONKEY BAN. HE HAD HEARD
INDIRECTLY THAT "A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL" HAD WARNED
THE INDIAN EMBASSY ABOUT POSSIBLE PUBLIC REACTION TO
THIS SHOW. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON
LIKELY TIME TABLE FOR SHOW?
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: ANIMALS, EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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